

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

§ 17.6

- 17.10 Record.
- 17.11 Inspection of wills and approval as to form during testator's lifetime.
- 17.12 Approval.
- 17.13 Government employees as beneficiaries.
- 17.14 Appeals.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 22 FR 10530, Dec. 24, 1957, unless otherwise noted.

§ 17.1 Definitions.

When used in the regulations in this part the following words or terms shall have the meaning shown below:

(a) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) *Commissioner* means the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

(c) *Superintendent* means the superintendent of the Osage Indian Agency.

(d) *Special attorney* means the special attorney for Osage Indians, or other legal officer designated by the Commissioner.

§ 17.2 Attorneys.

Interested parties may appear in person or by attorneys at law. Attorneys must file written authority to appear for their clients in the proceedings.

§ 17.3 Pleadings, notice and hearings.

(a) The petition for approval of the will of a deceased Osage Indian may be set down for hearing at a date not less than 30 days from the date the petition is filed. Hearings shall be conducted only after notice of the time and place of such hearings shall have been given by mail. The notice shall be mailed not less than 10 days preceding the date of the hearing and shall state that the special attorney will, at the time and place specified therein, take testimony to determine whether the will of the deceased Osage Indian shall be approved or disapproved. The notice shall list the presumptive heirs of the decedent and the beneficiaries under such will, and shall notify the attesting witnesses to be present and testify. It shall state that all persons interested in the estate of the decedent may be present at the hearing. The notice shall further state that the special attorney may, in his discretion, continue the hearing to another time or place to be announced at the original hearing.

(b) Any interested party desiring to contest approval of the will may, not less than 5 days before the date set for hearing, file written objections in triplicate, showing that a copy thereof was served upon attorneys for the proponent and other attorneys of record in the case. Such contestant shall clearly state the interest he takes under the will and, if a presumptive heir, the interest he would take under the Oklahoma law. The contestant shall further state specifically the ground on which his contest is based.

§ 17.4 Service on interested parties.

A copy of the notice of hearing shall be served by mail, at his last known place of residence, on each presumptive heir; each beneficiary under the will offered for consideration; and each attesting witness thereto. Such notice must be mailed not less than 10 days preceding the date set for the hearing.

§ 17.5 Minors represented at hearings.

Minor heirs at law, who by the terms of the will are devised a lesser interest in the estate than they would take by descent, of whose interests are challenged, shall, with the approval of the special attorney, be represented at the hearing by guardians ad litem. Such minors 14 years of age or over may indicate in writing their choice of guardians ad litem. If no such choice has been indicated on the date of the hearing, the special attorney shall make the selection and appointment.

§ 17.6 Examination of witness.

All testimony taken at the hearing shall be reduced to writing. Any interested party may cross-examine any witness. Attorneys and others will be required to adhere to the rules of evidence of the State of Oklahoma. If, in addition to oral testimony, affidavits or dispositions are introduced, they must be read, and any opposing claimant may require the presence of the affiant, if practicable, either at that or a subsequent hearing, and opportunity shall be given for cross-examination or for having counter interrogatories answered.